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Driver Education

Cooperative Driver Testing Program

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS
APR 2 5 1991

George H. Ryan
Secretary of State

Producing Safer Teen Drivers

The Cooperative Driver Testing Program was implemented in 1986 to strengthen driver education in Illinois and produce safer teen drivers.

Under this program, driver education teachers are certified by the Office of the Secretary of State to conduct behind-the-wheel tests. Cooperative Driver Testing is based on our belief that driver education teachers, who spend a minimum of 36 hours with a student driver, are professionals and highly qualified to judge a driver's ability.

Because driver education teachers administer the behind-the-wheel test, students are given an added incentive to work and study harder during their courses. As a result, instruction is a much more meaningful experience.

If your school is presently not participating in this valuable program, I hope you will contact our office for more information. Statistics attest to the tremendous benefits of this program. With continued help from parents and teachers, we will continue toward our goal of producing safer teen drivers.

George H Ryan

Secretary of State

The Cooperative Driver Testing Program

School districts may become voluntarily involved in the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) by contacting the Office of the Secretary of State. Under this program, high school driver education instructors are certified by the Secretary of State to administer behind-the-wheel driving examinations to their students.

Certified driver education instructors may conduct behind-the-wheel tests of, and issue CDTP certificates to, students who:

- Complete a minimum of 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction in an Illinois State Board of Education–approved driver education course;
- Receive a combined final grade of A or B;
- Receive approval from their parent or guardian;
- Pass an instructor-administered behind-the-wheel test that is regulated and approved by the Secretary of State's office.

Students may present the CDTP certificate along with their "Blue Slip" to any Driver Services facility where, subject to a spot check, a drivers license will be issued. Under the spot check system, some students are required to take an additional behind-the-wheel test when they apply for their license at a driver services facility.

Spot checks are conducted to ensure the quality and integrity of the Cooperative Driver Testing Program. Instructors and students are informed in advance of all spot check dates.

Program statistics

- More than 375 schools with more than 103,000 students participate in the Cooperative Driver Testing Program.
- About 72 percent of all driver education students in Illinois participate in this program.
- Students whose behind-the-wheel tests were conducted by a certified driver education instructor are 33 percent *less likely* to be convicted of a traffic violation than students who did not receive testing from their instructor.
- Students whose behind-the-wheel tests were conducted by a certified driver education instructor are 14 percent *less likely* to be involved in a traffic accident.
- Of the students participating in the program, 25 percent met the requirements to receive a CDTP certificate.
- Of students issued a CDTP certificate and subsequently spot-checked, 96 percent passed the additional behind-the-wheel test.

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Benefits of the program

- Helps to produce safe, conscientious, responsible young drivers
- Provides a better assessment of student performance by instructors who have spent quality time with the student driver
- Motivates students to do well in the driver education class
- Helps students feel more at ease taking a behind-the-wheel test from their instructor, whom they know
- Improves service to the public because less time is spent administering driver examinations at driver services facilities
- Standardizes behind-the-wheel tests for all driver education courses
- Promotes a better understanding of and better attitude toward driver education from the community
- Rewards students for achievement

For more information

Participation in the Cooperative Driver Testing Program is completely voluntary. For more information, please contact

Driver Services Department
c/o Field Services Bureau
2701 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62723
(217) 782-7044

or

any driver services facility.

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Schools participating in the program include:

Northern Illinois

Chadwick High School
Chicago public schools
Galena High School
Joliet high schools
Kankakee High School
Lake Forest High School
LaSalle-Peru High School
Lincolnway High School
Maine Township high schools
Morris High School
Naperville high schools
Niles high schools
Rockford public high schools
Waukegan high schools

Central Illinois

Charleston High School
Danville High School
Hillsboro High School
Illini Central High School
Galesburg High School
Gibson City High School
Normal Community High School
Peoria public high schools
Quincy Senior High School
Springfield public high schools
United Township High School

Southern Illinois

Belleville High School
Benton High School
Cairo High School
Carmi High School
Flora Township High School
Lawrenceville High School
Marion High School
Massac County High School
Salem High School
Sparta High School
Vienna Township High School

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